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CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

Porto Rico: Past and Present, and San Domingo of To-day. By A. Hyatt Verrill. 357 pp. Map, ills. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1914. \$1.50. 8 x 5½.

A good description of Porto Rico, based upon personal observation. Porto Rico has some 800 miles of excellent roads, suitable for the touring car; and the denudation of the native forest growth enhances the views obtainable from the automobile. A really first-class hotel with up-to-date accommodations is said to be much desired. The Porto Ricans have a custom of planting climbing vines about the unsightly poles which support the wires conveying electric power. The inhabitants are said to be thoroughly loyal to this country and ready to fight in its behalf. English, although the official language, is not as much in use as Spanish, and does not appear to be gaining the ascendancy. To bring this about, it would at least be necessary to teach English in the public schools.

DAVID H. BUEL.

Cuba: Past and Present. By A. Hyatt Verrill. 257 pp. Map, ills. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1914. \$1.50. 8 x 5.

A most sympathetic, and yet impartial account of the "Pearl of the Antilles," designed to meet the wants of the prospective tourist or settler. It is stated that Cuba has benefited in every way by freedom from Spanish rule. While the usual tourist's description of native manners and customs, of points of interest, and of national history is entertaining, one of the most noteworthy portions of the book is that which removes the idea, prevalent in this country, that the Isle of Pines is an Eldorado for settlers from the United States. While not denying that there is some good land on the island, and that some of our citizens have done well there, the writer insists that at least a third of the land is worthless and that the rest is less fertile and productive than that of Cuba, and our people are advised not to think of settling there. Much is made of the Commercial Clerks' Club of Havana, which seems very much like our Young Men's Christian Association. The chapter "A Few Facts and Figures" is important, giving an account of the area and population, the climate and rainfall of the interior, health and sanitation, and trade and finances.

DAVID H. BUEL.

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil and the Brazilians. By G. J. Bruce. vii and 307 pp. Ills., index. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1914. \$3. 9 x 6.

A book, far above the usual tourist record, of his first experiences in a foreign land. The writer is a practiced observer of the races of men dwelling in the tropical belt. His contention is that the researches of anthropologists and ethnologists in regard to the aborigines of Brazil have as yet given only negative results. He considers the racial amalgam known as the modern Brazilian as active, energetic, intelligent, affable and impressionable. Only in his attitude toward the women of his household does he find him lacking in the modern spirit of courtesy, respect and veneration. He regards the cannibalism of some of the Indian tribes of the Amazon as a savage outpouring of hatred of an enemy which by civilized man is expressed by social ostracism. The account of the diamond and rubber industries and of the flora and fauna of Brazil, especially of the Amazon, is both instructive and interesting. The author says that Brazil is reaching out into world commerce and world politics and that in the near future, in union with Argentina and Chile, the A-B-C alliance will become a rising factor to be reckoned with as a world power.

DAVID H. BUEL.

Bolivia: Its People and Its Resources, Its Railways, Mines and Rubber-Forests. By Paul Walle. Translated by Bernard Miall. 407 pp. Maps, ills., index. T. Fisher Unwin, London. C. Scribner's Sons, New York, 1914. \$3. 9 x 6.

A more than usually thorough description of Bolivia, by an experienced